

The Case for Christmas

Session 1: Setting the Record Straight

Some things we may assume about the birth of Jesus that are not necessarily in the Bible.

'The innkeeper turned Joseph and Mary away.'

To turn away a descendent of David in the City of David would be an unspeakable shame on the entire village.

-Kenneth Bailey, *Jesus Through Middle Eastern Eyes*

'Mary and Joseph were attempting to stay at a hotel.'

The word translated 'inn' in Luke is likely referring to a 'guest room'.

'Mary was on the verge of giving birth as they reached Bethlehem.'

Luke doesn't mention whether they were there for five minutes or five weeks, but it could allow for both.

-David A. Croteau, *Urban Legends of the New Testament*

'Jesus was born in a cave.'

This was likely a 'family room' that had a separate outside entrance.

How can we trust the gospel accounts of the birth of Christ?

Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John were written close to the time of the events they describe. Luke's gospel was written within the same generation when Jesus lived.

Archaeology consistently confirms the biblical record.

Mark & John do not repeat the account of the birth of Christ. Not every event of Jesus' life is mentioned in every gospel.

The historical record of the birth of Jesus needs to be taken seriously.

Philippians 2

John 1

Luke 2

